

MEETING MINUTES

Our City, Our Home Oversight Committee
April 27, 2023
Hearing Room 416, City Hall
9:36 AM – 11:06 AM

Committee Members

Nina Catalano
Michelle Cunningham-Denning
Julia D'Antonio
Jennifer Friedenbach
Shanell Williams

Members of the Our City, Our Home Oversight Committee attended this meeting in-person. The agenda, video recording, audio recording, and caption notes are posted at:

https://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=209.

Supporting materials including presentations and reports are posted at:

<https://sf.gov/meeting/april-27-2023/our-city-our-home-oversight-committee-regular-meeting>

1) **Call to Order**

Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 9:36 AM.

Roll Call:

Member Catalano: Present
Member Cunningham-Denning: Arrived at 10:09
Vice Chair D'Antonio: Arrived at 9:55
Member Friedenbach: Present
Chair Williams: Present

The Committee did not have quorum when the meeting began at 9:36. As such, the meeting began with public comment and informational presentations.

Land Acknowledgement:

We acknowledge that we are on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone, who are the original inhabitants of the San Francisco Peninsula. As the indigenous stewards of this land and in accordance with their traditions, the Ramaytush Ohlone have never ceded, lost nor forgotten their responsibilities as the caretakers of this place, as well as for all peoples who reside in their traditional territory. As guests, we recognize that we benefit from living and working on their traditional homeland. We wish to pay our respects by acknowledging the ancestors, elders, and relatives of the Ramaytush Community and by affirming their sovereign rights as First Peoples.

2) **Opportunity for the public to comment on any matters within the Committee's jurisdiction that are not on the agenda.**

There were no public comments on this agenda item.

3) Action Item

Presentation of OCOH Shelter & Hygiene budget recommendations with discussion, possible modification, and approval by the Committee.

Previously agenda item 5, the Chair asked to begin with a presentation and discussion of OCOH Shelter and Hygiene budget recommendations.

Chair Williams provided an overview of the Committee's process for developing recommendations beginning with slide 1 in the [presentation deck linked here](#).

Member Friedenbach presented the Shelter & Hygiene budget recommendations, beginning at slide 12 in the [presentation deck linked here](#).

Member Catalano asked how many hotel vouchers are currently funded by OCOH? Chief Deputy Director of the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH), Noelle Simmons said that the current year budget includes \$2.1million for hotel vouchers: 40 for youth, 64 for families and pregnant people, and 20 for survivors of violence.

Chair Williams said that the hotel vouchers are one important way of making emergency access available.

There were no public comments on this agenda item.

Vice Chair D'Antonio joined the meeting at 9:55.

Chair Williams invited the Department to ask questions or offer clarifications.

Deputy Director of Finance and Admin at HSH said that the future of the Trailer Program is in the hands of the Port Commission. HSH expects that the Commission will approve the lease through the end of calendar year 2023. HSH is actively negotiating the lease of a different site that is close to Pier 94. The new site would accommodate at least some of the trailers with the remainder of the trailers moving to the Candlestick site.

4) Action Item

Presentation of OCOH Homelessness Prevention budget recommendations with discussion, possible modification, and approval by the Committee.

Previously agenda item 6, the Chair asked to continue with a presentation and discussion of OCOH Homelessness Prevention budget recommendations.

Member Catalano presented the Homelessness Prevention budget recommendations, beginning at slide 18 in the [presentation deck linked here](#).

Chair Williams invited the Departments to ask questions or offer clarifications. The Departments had no questions or clarifications at the time.

Member Friedenbach asked for confirmation that there is no proposed decrease in funding for Eviction Prevention and Housing Stabilization? Member Catalano confirmed the proposed budget and recommendation maintains funding for Eviction Prevention and Housing Stabilization services.

Francisco da Costa made a public comment by telephone. He said that eviction prevention is good, but people also need wraparound services. He asked if there is a City Department that does this work?

Member Cunningham-Denning joined the meeting at 10:09.

Chair Williams returned to roll call.

Roll Call:

Member Catalano: Present

Member Cunningham-Denning: Present

Vice Chair D'Antonio: Present

Member Friedenbach: Present

Chair Williams: Present

The meeting reached quorum.

5) Action Item:

Approval, with possible modification, of the meeting minutes from January 26, 2023; February 23, 2023; March 23, 2023.

Chair Williams asked for public comment on this agenda item. There were no public comments on this agenda item.

Member Friedenbach moved to approve the minutes. Vice Chair D'Antonio seconded the motion to approve the minutes.

Roll Call:

Member Catalano: Yes

Member Cunningham-Denning: Yes

Vice Chair D'Antonio: Yes

Member Friedenbach: Yes

Chair Williams: Yes

The motion passed to approve the minutes.

The Chair asked to return to the **Shelter & Hygiene budget recommendations (agenda item 3)**

Presentation of OCOH Shelter & Hygiene budget recommendations with discussion, possible modification, and approval by the Committee.

Member Friedenbach moved to add 10 hotel vouchers for pregnant people and victims of domestic violence at a cost of \$50,000, using savings from the Cabin Shelter Program by delaying startup by a week. Vice Chair D'Antonio seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Member Catalano: Yes

Member Cunningham-Denning: Yes

Vice Chair D'Antonio: Yes

Member Friedenbach: Yes

Chair Williams: Yes

The motion passed to recommend expanding the hotel voucher program.

Member Friedenbach moved to recommend extending the RV/Trailer Shelter Program wind-down by a year, to end December 31, 2024.

Member Catalano asked if, given the information shared by Deputy Director Whitley, the recommendation is to continue using the Trailers at any site, or if it is specific to using them at Pier 94? Member Friedenbach said that if the Port suspends the use, then the City could do both the tiny homes at full capacity, continue safe parking, and maintain the capacity at the Port. She acknowledged a lot of contingencies in that plan.

Vice Chair D'Antonio seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Member Catalano: Yes

Member Cunningham-Denning: Yes

Vice Chair D'Antonio: Yes

Member Friedenbach: Yes

Chair Williams: Yes

The motion passed to recommend extending the RV/Trailer Shelter Program.

Chair Williams thanked Member Friedenbach for her hard work as Shelter & Hygiene Liaison.

The chair asked to return to the **Homelessness Prevention budget recommendations (agenda item 4)**.

Member Catalano said she had no additional budget recommendations for this category.

6) Action Item

Presentation of OCOH Mental Health budget recommendations with discussion, possible modification, and approval by the Committee.

Previously agenda item 7, the Chair asked to continue with a presentation and discussion of OCOH Mental Health budget recommendations.

Member Cunningham-Denning presented the Mental Health budget recommendations, beginning at slide 23 in the [presentation deck linked here](#).

Chair Williams invited questions and clarifications from the Department of Public Health. The Department had no questions or clarifications at the time.

Vice Chair D'Antonio asked for clarification on the reason for not recommending mental health services on site at the youth navigation center? Member Friedenbach said current implementation and budget does not include clinical mental health services at the youth navigation center. The recommendation is to add these services onsite.

Chair Williams thanked Member Cunningham-Denning for her work as the Mental Health Liaison.

Marnie Regen (she/her) of Larkin Street Youth Services made a public comment. She thanked the Committee Members and specifically Member Cunningham-Denning for listening to the distinct

needs of youth.

Rian made a public comment. Rian said they've been helping the homeless with food and spiritual healing. As a reiki spiritual healer, Rian would like to get more involved with the community.

Members offered some ideas. Chair Williams said Members would follow up with Rian after the meeting.

Julie Falataina (*sic*) (she/her) gave a public comment. She said it would be good to get mental services out to families who are living in their cars. She said there's a lot of frustration and anger, and families need support.

Joi Jackson Morgan, the Executive Director of 3rd St Youth Center and Clinic, gave a public comment by telephone. She said that 3rd St has been trying to piece together services- specifically 24 hour mental health services – at the youth navigation center. The Harm Reduction Therapy Center has been helpful in realizing this vision, but it isn't enough. She said that young people are asking for Mental Health services. The complexity of the behavioral health issues is such that youth at the navigation center need more than case managers. She said that behavioral health services are necessary to help the youth move through their experience of homelessness.

Member Catalano said that she is excited about the co-op housing recommendation, which will meet an important long-term need. She asked if the \$110,000 being proposed is a one-time cost, or an ongoing cost? Emily Gibbs, Deputy Finance Officer for the Department of Public Health, said that \$110,000 would fund operating costs for one year, and that the co-op program would need ongoing operations funding.

Member Catalano asked if it would be an ongoing reduction in the street crisis response budget? Vice Chair D'Antonio said it would need to increase to account for inflation.

Chair Williams asked Member Cunningham-Denning to walk the Committee through any recommendations.

Member Cunningham-Denning made a motion to recommend the provision of on-site mental health services at the youth navigation center.

Member Friedenbach amended the motion to recommend funding mental health services at the youth navigation center using funding from the Mental Health Drop-In Services subcategory. Member Cunningham-Denning agreed and incorporated the amendment into the motion.

Vice Chair D'Antonio seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Member Catalano: Yes

Member Cunningham-Denning: Yes

Vice Chair D'Antonio: Yes

Member Friedenbach: Yes

Chair Williams: Yes

The motion passed to recommend the provision of on-site mental health services at the youth navigation center using funding from the Mental Health Drop-In Services subcategory.

Member Cunningham-Denning made a motion to recommend that DPH add one six-bed co-op to the

acquisitions list at a cost of \$2.6 million, and to fund ongoing operating costs by decreasing Assertive Outreach Crisis Response Teams by \$110,000 each year, with adjustments for inflation.

Member Catalano seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Member Catalano: Yes

Member Cunningham-Denning: Yes

Vice Chair D'Antonio: Yes

Member Friedenbach: Yes

Chair Williams: Yes

The motion passed to recommend that DPH add a six-bed co-op to the OCOH Mental Health portfolio.

7) Action Item

Presentation of OCOH Permanent Housing budget recommendations with discussion, possible modification, and approval by the Committee.

Chair Williams noted that in the absence of a Permanent Housing Liaison she, Member Catalano, and Member Friedenbach had worked on the recommendations.

Chair presented the Permanent Housing budget recommendations, beginning at slide 4 in the [presentation deck linked here](#).

Chair Williams invited questions and clarifications from the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing and the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development. Neither had questions or clarifications at the time.

Marnie Regen of Larkin Youth Services gave a public comment. She thanked the Committee for their recommendations. She noted that youth homelessness has decreased in San Francisco, which means that the investments are working. She encouraged continued investment in youth to maintain the trend.

Solange from the SRO Community Collaborative gave a public comment. She thanked the Committee for their investment in subsidies for SRO families. She said housing is what is needed to battle mental health.

Julie Falataina (*sic*) (she/her) gave a public comment. She said she was homeless with her children. She described family homelessness as a "hardship journey." She said long term housing vouchers will help stabilize families and enable them to learn how to keep their housing.

Tracy Mixon of the Coalition on Homelessness gave a public comment. She said she supports extending subsidies for families. She said two years isn't long enough to get things together after homelessness. She said that income limits discourage people from trying to get ahead.

Jessica Hernandez gave a public comment. She said families need long term housing subsidies, not temporary subsidies. Two years is not enough to increase income. She said she thinks shallow subsidies are a good idea for families who do not qualify for housing. She encouraged the Committee to spend the money on permanent solutions for families.

A woman gave public comment in Spanish. She said that she has three children. She said the income she earns is not enough; the cost of food and rent are high and going up. She said she is asking for justice: for affordable rent and food.

A woman gave public comment. She said she has four kids. She said the housing is too expensive, even though she has three jobs. She is here to ask for good homes and safe homes for everyone.

Member Friedenbach said that the Women's Flex Pool was not fully funded in the last budget, which is why the Department is proposing to use the funding for Rapid Re-Housing.

Member Friedenbach moved to recommend the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing create a pathway for women-serving organizations to place and provide services for 50 women in the adult Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool.

Member Cunningham-Denning seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Member Catalano: Yes

Member Cunningham-Denning: Yes

Vice Chair D'Antonio: Yes

Member Friedenbach: Yes

Chair Williams: Yes

The motion passed to recommend a pathway for women serving organizations to administer 50 slots of Flexible Housing Subsidies for women.

Member Friedenbach talked about some of the challenges around developing the Bridge Housing Model for youth. She noted that there is space for a more robust program in the Permanent Housing for Youth category.

Member Friedenbach moved to recommend allocating \$6 million in one-time site-acquisition funding and \$1 million annually in ongoing operating funding for a Bridge Housing program that provides shared housing with services for young people with high behavioral health care needs, beginning in FY24.

Member Cunningham-Denning seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Member Catalano: Yes

Member Cunningham-Denning: Yes

Vice Chair D'Antonio: Yes

Member Friedenbach: Yes

Chair Williams: Yes

The motion passed to recommend site acquisition and ongoing operating funding for a Bridge Housing program for youth.

Member Friedenbach moved to recommend a Shallow Subsidy program for 60 homeless families with low support service needs to be administered by the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development. Ongoing funding in the amount of \$1.5 million should be taken from the existing budget for Family Rapid Re-Housing in FY24 through FY26, with funding after FY26 coming from funds in the Family PSH Acquisitions line item.

Member Cunningham-Denning seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Member Catalano: Yes
Member Cunningham-Denning: Yes
Vice Chair D'Antonio: Yes
Member Friedenbach: Yes
Chair Williams: Yes

The motion passed to recommend a Shallow Subsidy for 60 homeless families to be administered by MOHCD.

Vice Chair D'Antonio made a motion to recommend that the City use General Fund or other funding sources to maintain and rehab existing Permanent Supportive Housing inventory and use OCOH funding to obtain and maintain new housing capacity.

Member Friedenbach seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Member Catalano: Yes
Member Cunningham-Denning: Yes
Vice Chair D'Antonio: Yes
Member Friedenbach: Yes
Chair Williams: Yes

The motion passed to recommend a that the City use other sources of funding to maintain and rehab existing PSH.

Vice Chair D'Antonio made a motion to recommend that the City use General Fund or other funding sources to expand money management services.

Member Friedenbach seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Member Catalano: Yes
Member Cunningham-Denning: Yes
Vice Chair D'Antonio: Yes
Member Friedenbach: Yes
Chair Williams: Yes

The motion passed to recommend a that the City use other sources of funding to expand money management services.

Chair Williams thanked the Committee Members, the Departments, and the Public for their hard work and participation.

8) Discussion/Possible Action Item

Opportunity to propose future agenda items with discussion and possible action by the Committee.

Vice Chair D'Antonio suggested revisiting the bylaws to consider changing voting from four members to five members.

Vice Chair D'Antonio suggested someone from SF Housing Authority or MOHCD who oversees those programs. She said it would be good to have all the information to be able to model.

Member Friedenbach suggested adding additional SF Housing Authority staff to better understand who has access to public housing.

There were no public comments on this agenda item.

9) ***Adjourn***

Chair Williams requested a motion to adjourn.

Member Cunningham-Denning moved to adjourn the meeting. Vice Chair D'Antonio seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Member Catalano: Yes

Member Cunningham-Denning: Yes

Vice Chair D'Antonio: Yes

Member Friedenbach: Yes

Chair Williams: Yes

The meeting adjourned at 11:06AM.

Committee staff and members can be reached at OCOH.CON@sfgov.org